

COVID COMEBACK

'Pandemic of the unvaccinated' burdens busy U.S. hospitals

Nurses and doctors in the CoxHealth Emergency Department in Springfield, Mo., don personal protective equipment to treat patients with COVID-19, Friday, July 16, 2021.

Associated Press
Page 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:
TICO KOCK
STEEL DRUM
4 - 6pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
PAULA RIDERSTAP
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

THURSDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
7 - 9pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
7 - 9pm

SATURDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

PAULA RIDERSTAP
SINGER
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‘Pandemic of the unvaccinated’ burdens busy U.S. hospitals

From Front

By **H. HOLLINGSWORTH and JOSH FUNK**

Associated Press

The COVID-19 comeback across the U.S. is putting pressure on hospitals at a time when some of them are busy just trying to catch up on surgeries and other procedures that were put on hold during the pandemic.

With the highly contagious delta variant spreading rapidly, cases in the U.S. are up around 70% over the last week, hospital admissions have climbed about 36% and deaths rose by 26%, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday.

Some hospitals are reporting record or near-record patient volumes. But even for those that aren't, this round of the pandemic is proving tougher in some ways, hospital and health officials said. Staff members are worn out, and finding traveling nurses to boost their ranks can be tough.

"I really think of it as a war and how long can you stay on the front line," said Dr. Mark Rosenberg, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "And how many times do you want to go back for another tour of duty. Eventually you just don't want to do it."

Also, many hospitals were busy even before the surge began, dealing with a backlog of cancer screenings, operations and other procedures that were put off during the winter surge to free up space and staff members, according to health care leaders.

"Eventually you have to pay the piper, and those things have now built up," said Dr. James Lawler of the Global Center for Health

Security at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

slowed to a crawl, with only about 48% of the population fully protected.

In Florida, UF Health Jacksonville is talking about setting up tents in the parking

"busting at the seams" as it handles medical procedures postponed because of the pandemic and deals with a spike in respiratory illnesses that usually hit in the wintertime, said Dr. Phillip Coule, chief medical officer.

COVID-19 hospitalizations also have started inching up to around eight or 10 patients, from lows of one or two a day. While the numbers still remain far below the peak of 145 in January, Coule said he is watching the situation closely.

"In some ways I feel like we are a lot better off than we were before," he said, noting that the staff is safer because of vaccinations. "In other ways, it worries me if we have to defer routine care again what the outcome will be."

In California, Los Angeles County will again require masks indoors, even in people who have been vaccinated. Over the past three weeks, COVID-19 cases have doubled across Kaiser Permanente's 36 California hospitals, to more than 400. Dr. Stephen Parodi, who helped develop the surge plans for Kaiser Permanente's hospitals, said he is confident they can handle the influx, noting that the total is still less than 20% of the January peak.

But he said the hospitals already were busy with people showing up at emergency rooms with more severe illnesses than they would have had if the problems had been detected sooner.

"At some point, illness doesn't wait for us," he said. "The ability to defer additional care when you have already deferred for a year, year and a half, is just simply not an acceptable option." □



In this May 19, 2021 file photo, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky testifies during a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

The fear now at some hospitals is that they will have to postpone non-COVID-19 care again — and risk the potential health consequences for patients.

Dr. Laura Makaroff, senior vice president for prevention and early detection for the American Cancer Society, said cancer screenings dropped during the outbreak and have yet to return to normal levels in many communities. She warned that delays in screenings can result in cancers being detected at more advanced stages of the disease.

COVID-19 deaths and newly confirmed infections across the U.S. are still dramatically lower than they were over the winter. But for the first time since then, cases are rising in all 50 states. And the nation's vaccination drive has

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky warned that the outbreak in the U.S. is becoming "a pandemic of the unvaccinated" because nearly all hospital admissions and deaths are among those who hadn't been immunized.

One of the most overwhelmed areas of the country is Springfield, Missouri, where public health officials begged the state this week to convert a dormitory, hotel or another large space for the care of less seriously ill COVID-19 patients so that the city's two hospitals can focus on the sickest.

Mercy Springfield and Cox South have seen a seven-fold increase in coronavirus patients since late May, with Mercy treating pandemic-high numbers and Cox expected to break its own record next week.

lot to help with the overflow after the number of COVID-19 in-patients doubled to 77 over the past couple of weeks. Chad Neilsen, director of infection prevention, said the hospital expects to surpass its January high of 125 COVID-19 in-patients in the next few weeks.

Before the rise, the hospital had begun a push to bring back patients who had delayed care amid the pandemic. Now it is discussing canceling procedures, Neilsen said.

"To be telling someone, 'Sorry, we have to delay your hip surgery or your procedure because we have too many COVID patients who are largely unvaccinated,' it is just not what we signed up to do in health care," he said.

In Georgia, Augusta University Medical Center is

Trump showerhead rule on more water flow goes down the drain

By **MATTHEW DALY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — So

much for Donald Trump's quest for "perfect" hair.

The Biden administration is reversing a Trump-era rule approved after the former president complained he wasn't getting wet enough because of limits on water flow from showerheads.

Now, with a new president in office, the Energy Department is going back to a standard adopted in 2013, saying it provides plenty of water for a good soak and a thorough clean.

The rule change will have little practical effect, since nearly all commercially made showerheads comply with the 2013 rule — the pet peeve of the former president notwithstanding.

The Energy Department said the action clarifies what's been happening in the marketplace. Showers that provide the extra supply of water desired by Trump are not easily found, officials said.

Since 1992, federal law has dictated that new showerheads should not pour more than 2.5 gallons (9.5 liters) of water per minute. As newer shower fixtures came out with multiple nozzles, the Obama administration defined the showerhead restrictions to apply to what comes out in total. So if there are four nozzles, no more than 2.5 gallons total should come



In this Aug. 12, 2020 file photo, water flows from a showerhead in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

out among all four.

The Trump-era rule, finalized in December, allows each nozzle to spray as much as 2.5 gallons, not just the overall showerhead.

A proposed rule change, set to be published in the Federal Register next week, reverts to the Obama-era standard. The public will have 60 days to comment before a final rule is developed.

The change will ensure that consumers continue to save money while reducing water use and paying lower energy bills, the Energy Department said. Officials estimated that the Obama-era rule saved households about \$38 a

year, and the Energy Department expects similar savings by reverting to the 2013 standard.

"As many parts of America experience historic droughts, this common-sense proposal means consumers can purchase showerheads that conserve water and save them money on their utility bills," Kelly Speakes-Backman, acting assistant secretary for the department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, said Friday.

While publicly talking about the need to keep his hair "perfect," Trump made increasing water flow and dialing back longstanding appliance conservation

standards — including for light bulbs, toilets and dishwashers — a personal issue.

"So showerheads — you take a shower, the water doesn't come out. You want to wash your hands, the water doesn't come out," Trump said at the White House last year. "So what do you do? You just stand there longer or you take a shower longer? Because my hair — I don't know about you, but it has to be perfect. Perfect."

But consumer and conservation groups said the 2020 rule change was silly, unnecessary and wasteful, especially as the West bakes through a historic two-decade-long megadrought.

With four or five or more nozzles, "you could have 10, 15 gallons per minute powering out of the showerhead, literally probably washing you out of the bathroom," said Andrew deLaski, executive director of the energy conservation group Appliance Standards Awareness Project. "At a time when a good portion of the country is experiencing serious drought exacerbated by climate change, there's no place for showerheads that use needless amounts of water."

DeLaski and officials at Consumer Reports said there's been no public outcry or need for change. The Energy Department's database of 12,499 showerheads showed 74% of them use 2 gallons (7.5 liters) or less water per minute, which is 20% less than the federal standard.

A 2016 test of showerheads by Consumer Reports found that the best-rated showerheads, including a \$20 model, provided a pleasing amount of water flow and met federal standards. The Energy Department also is proposing to remove the definition of "body spray" adopted in the 2020 final rule. The rule allows "body sprays" to circumvent congressional intent to promote water conservation simply based on orientation of the water flow — a side spray rather than overhead. □

Biden comment hints at boosting travel between US and Europe

By **DAVID KOENIG**

AP Airlines Writer

A comment by President Joe Biden is encouraging airlines to hope that travel between the United States and Europe could be expanded in time for last-minute, late-summer vacation trips.

At a news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Biden was asked about ending restrictions that bar most European visitors from entering the United States.

Biden said Thursday that a

team that is advising him on the pandemic "brought that subject up. It's in the process of (considering) how soon we can lift the ban ... and I will be able to answer that question to you within the next several days."

"The science says we can safely reopen international travel now, particularly for countries that have made considerable progress toward vaccinating their citizens," said Tori Emerson Barnes, the travel group's executive vice president

of policy, citing studies that concluded there is a low risk of transmitting the virus during flights.

"Each day that outdated restrictions on travel exist wreaks economic damage on our nation."

Airlines for America, a trade group representing major U.S. carriers, said "the time for action is now" to reopen to international visitors. The group noted that the U.S. allows travel to and from Mexico, where less than one-third of the population is vaccinated, while



In this June 16, 2021 file photo, travelers queue up in long lines to pass through the south security checkpoint in Denver International Airport in Denver.

Associated Press

severely restricting travel from Canada and the United Kingdom, two countries

with relatively high vaccination rates. □

Coalition blasts plans to divert Colorado River amid drought

By SAM METZ

Associated Press /

Report for America

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)

— Farmers, environmentalists and small-town business owners gathered at the Hoover Dam on Thursday to call for a moratorium on building pipelines and dams along the Colorado River that they say would jeopardize the 40 million people who rely on it as a water source.

They're pushing for the moratoriums as parts of the U.S. West are gripped by historic drought and hotter temperatures and dry vegetation provide fuel for wildfires sweeping the region. Federal officials expect to make the first-ever water shortage declaration in the Colorado River basin next month, prompting cuts in Arizona, Nevada and Mexico.

"We're here to say, 'Damn the status quo,'" said Kyle Roerink, the executive director of the Great Basin Water Network.

"No more business as usual. Why? Because we're failing: It's plain and simple. We shouldn't be seeing that bathtub ring growing like it is," he added, gesturing toward the white band that wraps the perimeter of Lake Mead, marking former water levels.

Hot temperatures and less snowpack have decreased the amount of water that flows from the Rocky Moun-



Kyle Roerink of Great Basin Water Network, center, speaks during a news conference at the Hoover Dam in the Arizona side, Thursday, July 15, 2021, to share demands for managing the shrinking Colorado River.

tains down through the arid deserts of the Southwest into the Gulf of California. Scientists attribute the extreme conditions to a combination of natural weather patterns and human-caused climate change, which has made the West warmer and drier in the past 30 years.

Almost a century after seven U.S. states divvied up the river, Lake Mead and Lake Powell — the two man-made reservoirs that store river water — are shrinking faster than expected, spreading panic throughout a region that relies on the river to sustain 40 million

people and a \$5 billion-a-year agricultural industry. Nevada does not use its full allocation of river water and stands to be less affected by the cuts tied to the federal water shortage declaration than Arizona, where farmers will have to rely more heavily on groundwater and leave fields unplanted.

Officials in both states acknowledge the record lows are part of an ongoing downward spiral for the river but assure water users that they've spent years preparing and have enough water to accommodate expected popu-

lation growth and supply farmers.

But those speaking at Hoover Dam on Thursday blasted water officials and said agreements reached in 2007 and 2019 weren't fulfilling their purpose to maintain the river. They said proponents of projects to facilitate more water consumption weren't being realistic about action needed to ensure the Colorado River continues to supply water and hydropower to the region's cities and farms.

Utah Rivers Council Executive Director Zach Frankel said state and federal offi-

cials should abandon plans to build a pipeline to siphon water from Lake Powell to the Sand Hollow Reservoir in southern Utah. He said it was important to ensure federal infrastructure dollars weren't spent on projects that enable more wasteful water use and pointed out that Utah's Washington County — which would benefit from the diversion — uses more water per capita than Las Vegas and Phoenix.

"It is simply madness that as the Colorado River reaches its lowest levels in recorded history that we will be proposing a new water diversion upstream. While the lower basin is going to diet and cutting its water use, we should not let the upper basin go to an all-you-can-eat buffet," he said.

The Imperial Irrigation District, which oversees water in parts of Southern California and has water rights to roughly 20% of the Colorado River — more than Nevada and Arizona combined — withdrew from the most recent set of negotiations.

JB Hamby, the vice president of the district's board, said it was important that water management policies made in the future ensured that rural farming communities — which use the majority of the region's water — wouldn't bear the brunt of the drought so that cities can keep growing. □

Associated Press



In this Sept. 6, 2020, file photo, the Creek Fire burns in the Sierra National Forest near Big Creek, Calif.

Associated Press

CLOVIS, Calif. (AP) — A lightning strike likely ignited a 2020 wildfire in California's Sierra National Forest, but the U.S. Forest Service said Friday they could

not determine an official cause of the fire. September's Creek Fire burned 600 square miles (1,500 square kilometers) and spread so quickly that hundreds of

Lightning likely cause of 2020 Sierra National Forest fire

Labor Day holiday campers had to be rescued by a series of harrowing helicopter flights. All 214 campers were delivered safely.

Investigators did not rule out arson and lit cigarettes as the cause, but said there were no illegal marijuana grow sites nearby that could have started the fire. Forest service officials said an "undetermined" status is not uncommon with a fire this complex.

"Investigators spent countless hours hiking rugged terrain to determine the

cause, interviewed numerous leads, and eliminated multiple potential causes. In the end, lightning remains as the probable cause," said Dean Gould, forest supervisor of the Sierra National Forest.

Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig expressed gratitude for the service completing its investigation but said an undetermined cause makes it "hard for the residents and those who lost so much to find closure." The Creek Fire destroyed 853 structures.

Fresno County estimates the cost of recovery and rebuilding to exceed \$500 million. There were no fatalities.

Fire officials at the time said they'd never seen a fire move so fast in forestland — 15 miles (24 kilometers) in a day through drought- and beetle-killed timber. The Sept. 4 fire near Yosemite National Park cut off an access road to a popular campground at Mammoth Pool Reservoir where 214 people became trapped. □

Rescuers rush to help as Europe's flood toll surpasses 125

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Emergency workers in western Germany and Belgium rushed Friday to rescue hundreds of people threatened by historic floods, including residents of a town where the ground gave way beneath their homes, as the disaster claimed dozens more lives and search for the missing went on.

The death toll rose to more than 125, and hundreds of people were still unaccounted for.

Sixty-three people perished in the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate, including 12 residents of an assisted living facility for disabled people in the town of Sinzig who were surprised by a sudden rush of water from the nearby Ahr River, authorities said.

In neighboring North Rhine-Westphalia state, the number of dead stood at 43, but officials warned that it could increase.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said he was "stunned" by the devastation and pledged support to the families of those killed and to cities and towns facing significant damage.

"In the hour of need, our country stands together,"



Cars are covered in Hagen, Germany, Thursday, July 15, 2021 with the debris brought by the flooding of the 'Nahma' river the night before.

Steinmeier said in a statement. "It's important that we show solidarity for those from whom the flood has taken everything."

A harrowing rescue effort unfolded in the German town of Erftstadt, southwest of Cologne, where people were trapped when the ground gave way and their homes collapsed.

Fifty people were rescued from their houses, county administrator Frank Rock told German broadcaster n-tv. Aerial photos showed what appeared to be a

massive landslide at a gravel pit on the town's edge.

"One has to assume that under the circumstances some people didn't manage to escape," Rock said. Authorities cautioned that the large number of missing could stem from duplicated reports and difficulties reaching people because of closed roads and disrupted phone service.

After Germany, where the death toll stood at 106, Belgium was the hardest hit. The country had confirmed the deaths of 20 people,

with another 20 still missing, Belgian Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden told the VRT network Friday.

Several dikes on the Meuse River that runs from Belgium into the Netherlands were at risk of collapsing, Verlinden said. Authorities in the southern Dutch town of Venlo evacuated 200 hospital patients due to the river's looming threat.

The flash floods followed days of heavy rainfall in Western Europe.

Thousands of people remained homeless in Ger-

many after their houses were destroyed or deemed to be at risk.

The governor of North Rhine-Westphalia, who hopes to succeed Chancellor Angela Merkel as the nation's leader after Germany's election on Sept. 26, said the disaster had caused immense economic damage to the country's most densely populated state.

"The floods have literally pulled the ground from beneath many people's feet," Gov. Armin Laschet said at a news conference. "They lost their houses, farms or businesses."

Federal and state officials have pledged financial aid to the affected areas.

Malu Dreyer, the governor of Rhineland-Palatinate state, said the disaster showed the need to speed up efforts to curb global warming. She accused Laschet and Merkel's center-right Union bloc of hindering efforts to achieve greater greenhouse gas reductions in Germany, Europe's biggest economy and a major emitter of planet-warming gases.

"Climate change isn't abstract anymore. We are experiencing it up close and painfully," she told the Funke media group. □

Associated Press

China, moving cautiously, starts carbon trading market

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese power companies bid for credits to emit carbon dioxide and other climate-changing gases as trading on the first national carbon exchange began Friday in a step meant to help curb worsening pollution.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the experimental first phase of carbon trading at the Shanghai Environment and Energy Exchange includes some 2,000 companies in the power industry that produce about 40% of China's emissions.

Over time, other major emitters will be added, such as airlines, the building materials industry and

iron and steel makers.

China is the biggest carbon emitter, but President Xi Jinping said last September that output should

peak in 2030 and then decline. He said China should achieve "carbon neutrality," or zero total output after measures to remove

carbon or offset emissions are counted, by 2060.

The ruling Communist Party has resisted adopting any binding limits on carbon emissions, saying China has to focus first on economic development. At the Shanghai exchange, companies will be assigned emissions quotas and can sell the surplus if their output comes in under that level, Xinhua said. The goal is to create financial incentives for companies to reduce emissions.

To start, the market should have "modest transaction volumes and prices" because companies have plenty of credits and there is no cap on emissions, Eur-

asia Group said in a June 26 report.

China has had regional carbon trading markets as pilot projects for several years.

Earlier, European power utilities and other companies paid for Chinese polluters to add wind, hydro and solar generating capacity in exchange for being allowed to increase their own emissions. The European Union ended that after it failed to slow the rise of Chinese emissions.

The carbon market is unlikely to deliver immediate reductions, said Cory Combs, an analyst with consultancy Trivium China. □



The sun sets near a coal-fired power plant on the Yangtze River in Nantong in eastern China's Jiangsu province on Dec. 12, 2018.

Associated Press

Ramaphosa vows army will return order to South Africa

By ANDREW MELDRUM

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Standing at the entrance to a looted mall and surrounded by soldiers, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa vowed Friday to restore order to the country after a week of violence set off by the imprisonment of former President Jacob Zuma.

Visiting the port city of Durban in hard-hit KwaZulu-Natal province, Zuma's home area, Ramaphosa said the chaos and violence in which more than 200 people died had been "planned and coordinated" and that the instigators will be prosecuted.

"We have identified a good number of them and we will not allow anarchy and mayhem to just unfold in our country," he said. One person has been arrested for instigating the violence and 11 others are under surveillance, officials said.

As army tanks rolled by the trashed Bridge City mall, Ramaphosa said the deployment of 25,000 troops would end the violence and rampant theft in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces.

South Africa's unrest erupted after Zuma began serving a 15-month sentence for contempt of court for



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, visits an area in Durban, South Africa, Friday, July 16, 2021 which was badly affected by unrest in the past week.

Associated Press

refusing to comply with a court order to testify at a state-backed inquiry investigating allegations of corruption while he was president from 2009 to 2018. Protests quickly escalated into theft in township areas. In Durban, rioters attacked retail areas and industrial centers where they emptied warehouses and set them alight. The burned-out shells still smoldered Friday.

More than 2,500 people

have been arrested for theft and vandalism and 212 people have died, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, acting minister in the presidency, said Friday. Many were trampled to death when shops were looted, according to police.

The army rollout in KwaZulu-Natal is expected to restore order in the coastal province within a few days. An uneasy calm has been secured in Gauteng province, which includes Jo-

hannesburg, South Africa's largest city and industrial hub.

"The country is gradually but firmly returning to normal," Ntshavheni said during a daily news briefing on the crisis.

In a sign of a return to stability, two strategic highways linking Durban port to Johannesburg and Cape Town reopened Friday after being closed for a week, Ntshavheni announced. South Africa's unrest first

flared at the Mooi River toll gate for the N3 highway, where more than 20 trucks were burned.

The military will patrol the highways but drivers are warned to use the road with care. "It is vitally important to proceed with extreme caution and to stay alert at all times," said the highway authority in a tweet Friday.

The highways are vital transport routes carrying fuel, food and other goods. Authorities will work to reopen the rail line to the strategic Indian Ocean ports of Durban and Richard's Bay that was also closed by the unrest, she said.

One of the country's biggest food manufacturers, Tiger Brands, said it has stopped baking and food production operations at its most affected sites in KwaZulu-Natal. The company said it had lost stock worth close to 150 million rand (about \$10 million) in the violence. There has been an increase in people trying to spend cash stained with green dye, evidence that the money was stolen from the hundreds of ATM machines broken into during the riots, according to the South African Banking Risk Information Center, which warned that the notes won't be honored. □

Hong Kong national security police raid student union office

By ZEN SOO

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's national security police on Friday raided the office of a university

student union after student leaders last week commemorated a man who killed himself after stabbing a police officer.

Police raided the office

at the University of Hong Kong and cordoned off the area around it. No students were in the office at the time. It was not clear if any arrests were made.

Police confirmed that they are investigating the student union with cooperation from the university and that they collected evidence Friday under a search warrant. They did not release any further details.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam earlier this week urged the university and police to take action after student leaders passed a motion expressing "deep sadness" and appreciating the "sacrifice" of the

man who attacked the police officer.

The man, identified as Leung Kin-fai, was described by police as a "lone wolf" domestic terrorist who was politically radicalized. On July 1, Leung stabbed a police officer with a knife before turning the weapon on himself. Leaders of the student union later apologized for passing the motion and stepped down from their posts.

Despite the apology, the university issued a statement saying it no longer recognized the student union and would investigate the incident and "take action against the

students concerned."

Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law in Hong Kong last year after months of anti-government protests in 2019 that included violent clashes between student-led protesters and police.

Over a hundred pro-democracy activists have been arrested under the law, which outlaws subversion, secession, terrorism and foreign collusion to interfere in the city's affairs. Critics say the law has been used to stifle dissent in Hong Kong and restricts freedoms promised to the former British colony for 50 years that are not found on the mainland. □



Police officers gather at the office of student union in campus of the University of Hong Kong, Friday, July 16, 2021.

Associated Press

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Archeologist Harold Kelly doctorate/Ph.D. candidate

ORANJESTAD - Recently, the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) selected drs. Harold Kelly as a Ph.D. candidate in Archeology in the multi-disciplinary program titled; **Island (er)s at the Helm**". This opportunity can create sustainable solutions and indicate social adaptations to counter climate change effects.

After submitting the investigation proposition and an interview with the selection committee of the NWO. Mr. Harold Kelly was selected to initiate the Ph.D. trajectory. In addition, drs. Sharelly Emanuelson of Curacao and drs. Lysanne Charles of Saba were both selected for the Ph.D. program. This research will be financed by the NWO. The host of this program is the Royal Institute for Language, Country en Folklore, and the University of Sint Maarten. The academic partners are the University of Amsterdam, Leiden, Utrecht, Delft, Twente, Rotterdam, the District of Columbia (USA), Institute of Social Studies (The Hague), and the University of the West Indies. The main objective of the investigation program is to investigate the innovative tools and practices that are needed to develop sustainable solutions. It also serves to counter the effects of climate change that affect the population of the Dutch Caribbean. Scientifically, the investigation program will contribute to more knowledge of the impact of climate change, based on the way the Dutch Caribbean islands

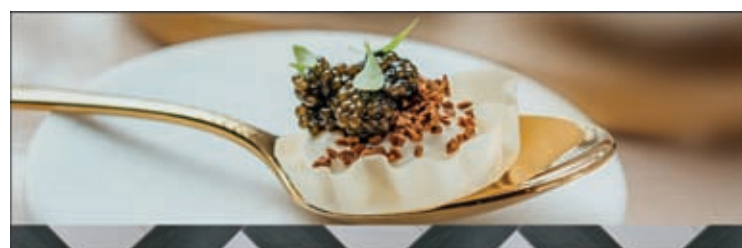


deal with this in the material, social and mental levels. An innovative aspect of the program is the investigation of social adaptation to counter the effects of climate change. The investigation will be done by a team consisting of professionals in many fields like archeology, (paleo) ecology, (paleo) ethnobotanical, anthropology, visual art, scenic art, political science, urban design, and planning, government and political science, law, architecture, and civil engineer.

The investigation program consists of 5 areas and will have a duration of 5 years. The investigation will be done on a Ph.D. level and Postdoctorate level. A total of 5 Ph.D. investigations will focus on archeology, anthropology, ethnic-architecture engineering, ethnic-urban engineering, government, and management development. Archeologist Harold Kelly will focus

on the identification of the social adaptation to counter the effects of global warming, hurricanes, and tsunamis, from the first inhabitants up to the present, according to the archeological data. Climate change, hurricanes, and tsunamis are not recent phenomena. Since the first exploration and inhabitation in the Caribbean Region, more or less 8000 years ago, islanders have experienced these phenomena. The Caribbean islanders had to collectively and continuously adapt to these climate changes that affected or threatened their island and resources like food and water. Time has proven that since the very beginning, the islanders were resilient and have always overcome many obstacles. Kelly's investigation will take place in the Dutch Caribbean, in Aruba, Bonaire, and Sint Maarten. Field findings, excavations, surface drilling, and conversation data will be collected. An essential aspect of the investigation is the involvement of the population during the investigation process. The findings of the investigation done by archaeologist Kelly will complement and contribute to the research of the other disciplines that are part of the total program. These findings will collectively help develop sustainable and innovative solutions to equip the Dutch Caribbean islander with the right tools and practices to become more resilient and to be able to prepare for future climate change effects.

The Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, and Culture wishes Mr. Kelly of the National Archeological Museum all the best with this opportunity to study on a scientific level. □



infini
by Urvin Croes

Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

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Back to 100%, at the Hilton



PALM BEACH — The island of Aruba has always remained confident over the last 15 months, believing it would fully recover. The question was: How fast? After three months of complete lock-down, Aruba reopened to tourism in July 2020, and visitors slowly began returning to One Happy Island.

Last week Friday, the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino proudly celebrated being at 100% occupancy, almost one year since its post lock-down reopening last year. It happened at a much faster recovery pace than predicted. What a wonderful feeling for the resort Team Members, eager to welcome guests back to their home away from home.

In recognition of the valuable support from Team Members at all levels of the operation, General Manager Vasco v. Baselli donned his chef's apron, and headed to the kitchen. What better way to show appreciation, than a sumptuous cook-out for lunch?

Baselli, has made it a tradition to cook for Team Members on special occasions, and the

projected 100% comeback, was one. On the menu, two great favorites, Piri Piri Chicken and grilled Ribs, accompanied by a tangy, homemade BBQ sauce, and Baselli's special baked bean recipe, which he credits his mother for.

Team Members enjoyed their lunch at the Team Members' cafeteria, feeling a great sense of satisfaction over the prospect of being back at full capacity while future occupancy numbers remain very reassuring.

The resort retained all of its Team Members throughout the pandemic. □



At the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, Jacintho Christiaans, retires after 32 years of service

PALM BEACH – A young at heart, assistant bar supervisor, Jacintho Marianus Christiaans, recently retired from the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino. He was presented with a fresh flower bouquet, a letter of appreciation and gift at a small gathering at Mira Solo bar, in the presence of his wife Filomena, the couple's two daughters, Glenn Farro, Director of Human Resources, and Vasco Baselli, General Manager.

Jacintho "Chin" Christiaans worked for the resort for 32 years. During his time there he lived through many changes and challenges and has always risen to meet them, while exceeding the expectations of resort guests, who certainly will miss his drink mixing and social skills.

Both Farro and Baselli thanked their retiring Team Member and wished him good luck on his new, exciting adventure of being retired to enjoy well-deserved rest, hobbies and the company of family members.

Baselli spoke on behalf of the entire team. "I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the hard work and professionalism that you have demonstrated over the past 32 years at our beloved hotel," he said. "Your commitment and dedication have always been an inspiration to your colleagues, supervisors and managers, who will certainly miss working with you. You represent what has always defined this resort, the warmth and genuine hospitality of its Team Members. As you initiate a new chapter in your life, we congratulate you, and wish to extend a heartfelt Masha Danki, for a job well done."

Pictured here, a snap shot from the lively gathering over drinks and hors d'oeuvres as the Hilton bids his emeritus bartender farewell. □



Tuscany Residence Aruba: Aruba's Luxury Residential Resort with unique Water Villas

NOORD — Within walking distance of the finest white beaches and the clear blue ocean, Tuscany Residence Aruba is founded in one of the best and most popular neighborhoods of Aruba, close to the shopping and nightlife of Palm Beach. Tuscany Residence Aruba brings luxury living to a new level and they are very unique in their offerings with the Daimari Water Villas.

Around 180 exclusive properties will be built in all different sizes and prices, suitable for everyone's wishes and among them are 18 luxury Water Villas, all with a private terrace and direct access to the pool. The Daimari Water Villas include 2 and 3 bedrooms with wardrobes, 2 and 3.5 bathrooms, are fully furnished with a fully equipped German kitchen, fully air-conditioned and with wide aluminum sliding door to the covered pool terraces. Balcony and covered terraces are offered on the 2 floors unit and a private parking in front of the unit or your own garage is all yours. 50% of these amazing houses is already sold! There are still 9 residences available, including 2 with a one car garage.

Tuscany Residences now offer a special pre-construction discount, whereby your advantage increases to 9.7%. Pre-construction prices starting at US\$ 450,775 Turn-Key!

Dutch design

This luxury residential resort with various types of homes has many amenities such as swimming pools, restaurant, bar, offices, meeting rooms, gym, wellness and more. The combination of the beautiful Dutch modern international architecture and the Aruban palm trees creates a luxurious Aruban feeling and relaxed atmosphere in this resort. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the perfect choice for couples and families. Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba adds, "We differ from traditional building, our design distinguishes itself." At 8 minutes' walk from Palm Beach, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is a dream comes true.

We take care of it all

De Groot adds, "Our project is in continuous construction which builds confidence. He continues saying that maintenance, property management, rental program and safety are taken care of. "You can log in from abroad



and manage your property for rental or view your administration." The great thing about Tuscany is that it offers everything equal to a resort but you do not need to wait for an elevator to bring you up, worry about parking space or noisy neighbors. "We have got space and different size offerings making this more a community feel rather than a packed condo building." He also emphasizes that the location is one of the best on Aruba as it is quiet and close to Palm Beach.

Reasons to buy

Reasons to consider Aruba property ownership, at Tuscany Residence Aruba

- Excellent price-quality ratio
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- Property land on top-location
- Varies properties in different price range
- Onsite Maintenance Team, Property Management & Rental Program

Are you looking for a safe, quiet, residential area where you will meet a mix of local and foreign owners? Do you feel for a warm community with amenities like wellness, gym, restaurants, pools and this all within a structure where the residence takes care of your property management while you are not here? Can the highest European quality and solid working structure take away your preoccupations while you are home? Than meet us, we are here to convince you with quality!

For an impression of Daimari Water Villas have a look at the website: <https://www.tuscany-residencearuba.com/en/news>.

For more information please contact Bas de Groot by phone +297-7332424 or email bas@tuscany-residencearuba.com.

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Olympic sport of schmoozing eludes corporate sponsors

By **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Screaming fans won't be the only thing missing from this year's Olympic Games in Tokyo. Behind the scenes, there won't much schmoozing for corporate sponsors either, thanks to the pandemic.

The corporate sponsorship program has been a key part of the Olympic experience since it began in 1985. More than a dozen or so names like Coca-Cola and Proctor & Gamble pay millions of dollars in each four-year cycle on sponsorship and marketing programs that includes wining and dining athletes, top employees and key clients at Olympic events.

But all that networking opportunity has been undermined because of the virus. Brands were already dealing with uncertainty regarding the fate of the Tokyo Olympics, which had been delayed from 2020. The games have now turned into a mostly TV-event after the Japanese government put Tokyo under a COVID-19 state of emergency because of rising new infections and the highly contagious delta variant.

Rick Burton, professor of sport management at Syracuse University, said worldwide sponsors typically use



In this Saturday, July 10, 2021, file photo, the Olympic rings are illuminated outside the Narita International Airport prior to the 2020 Summer Olympics near Tokyo.

the event to entertain dignitaries from other countries where they hope to pursue a business venture as well as clients with whom they hope to cinch deals or deepen relationships.

"There are so few opportunities to take someone to somewhere else in the world it's an extravaganza," said Burton, who served as the chief marketing officer of the U.S. Olympic Committee for the 2008 Beijing games. "I can take you to an NFL game or an NBA game, but it isn't as big as the Olympics."

But even with a muted Tokyo Olympics, corporate sponsors still see a golden

opportunity to market their brand with such trademark symbols as the torch. "The Olympic brand is so strong in the hearts and minds of people around the world," said Rob Prazmark, founder of 21 Marketing, which has helped the International Olympic Committee evaluate its global sponsorship program and has brokered more than \$3 billion worth of Olympic sponsorship deals. "(The sponsors) are in it for the long haul. They're not dealing with it as a one-and-done thing. They are viewing it as an asset for their company long term." Experts believe corporate sponsors will be able to sal-

vage networking opportunities by hosting their own parties or reinvesting more money in social media. Tony Pace, the former chief marketing officer of Subway who now has his own marketing firm, thinks sponsors will likely hold viewing parties with former Olympic athletes in person or virtually or be creative with current Olympic athletes by perhaps using social media or remote conferencing for private events with their clients.

Many of the worldwide sponsors either declined to comment or didn't respond to queries from The Associated Press on what

events they had planned. Bridgestone Corp. the world's largest tire and rubber company and one of the worldwide Olympic sponsors, would only say in a statement that it isn't creating any events outside of Tokyo but focusing its efforts in its marketing campaigns on broadcast, digital and social media as well as "supporting its athletes along the journey."

Prazmark estimates the worldwide sponsors spend on average \$400 million for each four-year cycle, which gives them marketing rights to one summer and one winter Olympics.

The worldwide partner program accounts for roughly 20% of the International Olympic Committee's revenue, with the rest largely coming from TV rights, according to the IOC. And athletes often sign separate pacts for themselves.

Coca-Cola, the longest standing Olympic partner has exclusivity over non-alcoholic beverages. The funding provides direct support for the training of Olympic athletes and hopefuls globally. That's in addition to financing global marketing campaigns and creating the interactive experiences on site. Experts say the majority of the commitment goes toward advertising on all platforms. □

American recalling flight attendants to handle travel crowds

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)

— American Airlines is canceling extended leaves for about 3,300 flight attendants and telling them to come back to work in time for the holiday season.

And American plans to hire 800 new flight attendants by next March, according to an airline executive.

The moves are the latest indication that leisure travel in the U.S. is recovering more quickly from the pandemic than airlines expected.

"Increasing customer demand and new routes starting later this year

mean we need more flight attendants to operate the airline," Brady Byrnes, the airline's vice president of flight service, told flight attendants in a memo Thursday.

Byrnes said cabin crews who are coming back from leave will return to flights in November or December.

Last year, American offered long-term leaves of absence to flight attendants and other employees to cut costs while it struggled with a steep drop in travel caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

Other airlines did the same thing. Now they need people.

Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian said this week that his airline expects to hire between 4,000 and 5,000 workers this year. Delta plans to add 1,300 reservations agents by this fall to reduce long waits on hold for customers who call the airline. It's also adding customer service, cargo and airport workers and plans to hire more than 1,000 pilots before next summer.

When the pandemic hit, the number of people flying in the U.S. plunged

below 100,000 on some days, a level not seen in decades. This year, it has climbed from less than

700,000 a day in early February to 2 million a day in July. □



In this Monday, July 27, 2020, file photo, An American Airlines Boeing 737-823 lands at Miami International Airport in Miami.
Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 Freed of

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Yesterday's answer

10 Took a

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24 Went wild

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28 More

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31 Hamper

32 Snow

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34 Vengeful

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36 Brink

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7-17

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

U A B H F A O , X N B E , X N B U V X O

V Y E I X H U I E U F B X B T Z E P A B ,

V X V Y H N Z Q H E K I I .

— C B Y Q I E C Q I F F V Y

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I AM SO CLEVER THAT SOMETIMES I DON'T UNDERSTAND A SINGLE WORD OF WHAT I AM SAYING. — OSCAR WILDE



In this 2017 photo provided by the University of California, San Francisco, neurosurgeon Dr. Edward Chang is reflected in a computer monitor displaying brain scans as he performs surgery at UCSF.

Associated Press

Device taps brain waves to help paralyzed man communicate

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

In a medical first, researchers harnessed the brain waves of a paralyzed man unable to speak and turned what he intended to say into sentences on a computer screen.

It will take years of additional research but the study, reported Wednesday, marks an important step toward one day restoring more natural communication for people who can't talk because of injury or illness. "Most of us take for granted how easily we communicate through speech," said Dr. Edward Chang, a neurosurgeon at the University of California, San Francisco, who led the work. "It's exciting to think we're at the very beginning of a new chapter, a new field" to ease the devastation of patients who lost that ability.

Today, people who can't speak or write because of paralysis have very limited ways of communicating.

For example, the man in the experiment, who was not identified to protect his privacy, uses a pointer attached to a baseball cap that lets him move his head to touch words or letters on a screen. Other devices can pick up patients' eye movements. But it's a frustratingly slow and limited substitution for speech.

Tapping brain signals to work around a disability is a hot field. In recent years, experiments with mind-controlled prosthetics have allowed paralyzed people to shake hands or take a drink using a robotic arm they imagine moving and those brain signals are relayed through a computer to the artificial limb.

Chang's team built on that work to develop a "speech neuroprosthetic" decoding brain waves that normally control the vo-

cal tract, the tiny muscle movements of the lips, jaw, tongue and larynx that form each consonant and vowel.

Volunteering to test the device was a man in his late 30s who 15 years ago suffered a brain-stem stroke that caused widespread paralysis and robbed him of speech. The researchers implanted electrodes on the surface of the man's brain, over the area that controls speech.

A computer analyzed the patterns when he attempted to say common words such as "water" or "good," eventually becoming able to differentiate between 50 words that could generate more than 1,000 sentences.

Prompted with such questions as "How are you today?" or "Are you thirsty?" the device eventually enabled the man to answer "I am very good" or "No I am not thirsty" not voicing the words but translating them into text, the team reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

It takes about three to four seconds for the word to appear on the screen after the man tries to say it, said lead author David Moses, an engineer in Chang's lab. That's not nearly as fast as speaking but quicker than tapping out a response.

In an accompanying editorial, Harvard neurologists Leigh Hochberg and Sydney Cash called the work a "pioneering demonstration."

They suggested improvements but said if the technology pans out it eventually could help people with injuries, strokes or illnesses like Lou Gehrig's disease whose "brains prepare messages for delivery but those messages are trapped."

Chang's lab has spent years mapping the brain activity that leads to speech. □

Just 7% of our DNA is unique to modern humans, study shows



This Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2003 file photo shows a reconstructed Neanderthal skeleton, right, and a modern human skeleton on display at the Museum of Natural History in New York.

Associated Press

CHRISTINA LARSON

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

What makes humans unique? Scientists have taken another step toward solving an enduring mystery with a new tool that may allow for more precise comparisons between the DNA of modern humans and that of our extinct ancestors.

Just 7% of our genome is uniquely shared with other humans, and not shared by other early ancestors, according to a study published Friday in the journal Science Advances.

"That's a pretty small percentage," said Nathan Schaefer, a University of California computational biologist and co-author of the new paper. "This kind of finding is why scientists are turning away from thinking that we humans are so vastly different from Neanderthals."

The research draws upon DNA extracted from fossil remains of now-extinct Neanderthals and Denisovans dating back to around 40,000 or 50,000 years ago, as well as from 279 modern people from around the world.

Scientists already know that modern people share some DNA with Neanderthals, but different people share different parts of the genome. One goal of the new research was to identify the genes that are exclusive to modern humans. It's a difficult statistical problem, and the researchers "developed a valuable tool that takes account of missing data in the ancient genomes," said John Hawks, a paleoanthropologist at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, who was not involved in the research. The researchers also found that an even smaller fraction of our genome just 1.5% is both unique to our species and shared among all people alive today. Those slivers of DNA may hold the most significant clues as to what truly distinguishes modern human beings.

"We can tell those regions of the genome are highly enriched for genes that have to do with neural development and brain function," said University of California, Santa Cruz computational biologist Richard Green, a co-au-

thor of the paper. In 2010, Green helped produce the first draft sequence of a Neanderthal genome. Four years later, geneticist Joshua Akey co-authored a paper showing that modern humans carry some remnants of Neanderthal DNA.

Since then, scientists have continued to refine techniques to extract and analyze genetic material from fossils. □



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Study finds more racial diversity in LGBTQ film characters

By JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The year 2020 saw welcome growth in racial diversity of LGBTQ characters in films released by major studios, according to a new study by the advocacy group GLAAD. But for the fourth year in a row there were no transgender or non-binary characters in those films.

The study, released Thursday, also found no LGBTQ characters in those films living with HIV, or with disabilities.

GLAAD looked at 44 films released in theaters by major studios in 2020, a limited number due to the pandemic.

Of those films, 10 (22.7%) contained LGBTQ characters. The films included "Kajillionaire," "Like a Boss," "The Broken Hearts Gallery," "Fantasy Island," "Valley Girl," "Freaky," "The New Mutants," and "Birds of Prey." It was an increase of 4.1% from the previous year, but a decrease of 12 films overall (last year's study looked at 118 films.) GLAAD counted 20 LGBTQ characters in those films, a decrease from 50 in last year's report (again, attrib-



This image provided by Focus Features shows Gina Rodriguez as Melanie, from left, Richard Jenkins as Robert Dyne and Evan Rachel Wood as Old Dolio Dyne in a scene from director Miranda July's "Kajillionaire."

utable to the reduced sample size of films released in 2020.) Of the 20 characters, 11 were women and 9 men, making this the first time GLAAD's tracking found more women than men in those roles.

Especially concerning, GLAAD noted, was that for the fourth year in a row, there were zero transgender and/or non-binary

characters counted. The group renewed its call for increased transgender and non-binary representation and storytelling, "especially in a political climate with anti-transgender legislation moving forward at a record pace."

The report came two days after Mj Rodriguez of TV's "Pose" became the first transgender performer

nominated for a major acting Emmy -- a development hailed by GLAAD.

A welcome finding was the increase in racial diversity of LGBTQ characters. Of the 20 characters counted, 40% (or eight) were characters of color, an increase of 6% from 2019 (though an overall decrease of nine characters).

GLAAD noted that was still

17% lower than a record of 57 percent characters of color in 2017.

GLAAD noted a significant increase in screen time given LGBTQ characters in the major releases: Half (10 of 20) registered 10 minutes or more. But quantity didn't necessarily mean better quality.

"For example, 'The Gentleman' and 'Buddy Games' both registered more than 10 minutes but with characters that were stereotypical and which elicited negative reactions from many LGBTQ viewers," the group said. "There remains a huge opportunity for meaningful LGBTQ storytelling."

Of the 20 LGBTQ characters, none were living with HIV and none with a disability. Since GLAAD began counting LGBTQ characters with disabilities in its 2020 report, it has tallied just one character, in a 2019 film.

"In the past year, GLAAD challenged the TV industry to introduce new regular and recurring LGBTQ characters living with HIV in order to combat stigma," the group said. "Now, GLAAD is similarly challenging Hollywood studios." □

Associated Press

Pump it up! Costello preps Spanish 'This Year's Model'

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Elvis Costello is re-releasing his classic "This Year's Model" album but this year's version erases his vocals and replaces him with Spanish-language singers.

A video of Juanes performing "Pump it Up" was released Thursday, preceding the full version of "Spanish Model" due to come out on Sept. 10.

Producer Sebastian Krys kept, and remixed, the original instrumental tracks recorded by Costello and his backing band, the Attractions. Besides Juanes, other vocalists include Fito Paez, Luis Fonsi, Sebastian Yatra and Jesse & Joy.

Originally released in 1978, "This Year's Model"

was Costello's second album and first with the Attractions. With its furious sound and blistering pace, Costello described it as an album about control and "desire and how that relates to love, fashion and the male gaze towards women."

"I don't think there's anything that somebody in another language would not have encountered," he said.

He said in a news release that he was inspired by television producer David Simon's request that he record his song "This Year's Girl" as a duet with singer Natalie Bergman for his show "The Deuce." He said he had a dream where he heard "This Year's Model" sung in Spanish.

Juanes had just worked with Krys on his latest album, "Origen." He told The Associated Press that he could hear Costello's breathing in the mix used for his vocals.

"The video is very particular, too," Juanes said, "because it's an animation over the original. I mean, it's the original video, but with my face. It's a bit crazy, but it's really cool. The same body of Elvis dancing to the song, but with my face."

"Spanish Model" includes versions of "Mentira" (Lip Service) sung by Pablo Lopez, "La Chica de Hoy" (This Year's Girl) by Cami and "Tu Eres Para Mi" (You Belong to Me) by Fonsi. Costello has teased the concept of bilingual re-

leases recently, with Iggy Pop singing a French version of Costello's song "No Flag."

"Part of the fun of this project is its unexpected

nature," Costello said. "Although, I think people in my audience that have been paying attention are pretty much used to surprises by now." □



Juanes arrives at the Latin Recording Academy Person of the Year gala in Las Vegas on Nov. 13, 2019, in Las Vegas, left, and Elvis Costello poses for a portrait in New York on Sept. 17, 2018.

Associated Press

Marathon man Mohoric posts 2nd Tour de France stage win

LIBOURNE, France (AP) —

Matej Mohoric put a finger to his mouth then made a zipping-the-lips gesture before he crossed the finish line. Two days after police searched his hotel room at the Tour de France, the Slovenian champion had a message to his critics.

"It was a sign to show people that question our performances to be mindful that we are making huge sacrifices," he said after posting a second stage win by surging solo from a breakaway group with a darting attack on Friday.

"It's the biggest race in the world, and also today we had to make the point that we are one of the best teams in the world and that we are on an even playing field." Mohoric, who rides for the Bahrain Victorious team, made his move with 26 kilometers (16 miles) left in Stage 19 and produced a tremendous individual effort after spending the day at the front.

His victory brought relief to his team, which was raided as part of a doping investigation. The Marseille prosecutor in charge of the case said a preliminary investigation targeting the team was opened on July 3 "for acquisition, transport,



Slovenia's Matej Mohoric gestures to be quiet as he crosses the finish line to win the nineteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 207 kilometers (128.6 miles) with start in Mourenx and finish in Libourne, France, Friday, July 16, 2021.

Associated Press

possession, import of a substance or method prohibited for use by an athlete without medical justification."

None of the Bahrain Victorious riders competing at the Tour has been publicly accused of wrongdoing.

"I was thinking mostly about what happened two days ago," Mohoric said, when asked about his thoughts in the final kilometer. "When I felt like a criminal with all

the police coming to our hotel.

"From one point of view, it's a good thing, because it means there are still controls in the peloton and they are checking all the teams. But from another point of view ... it's not a nice thing when the police walk into your room and search all your belongings."

About 25 officers from a special public health unit (OCLAESP) in charge of

the case were involved in the search, and Mohoric's team said it was asked for all of its training files.

"Even if you have nothing to hide it feels a little bit weird ... when they go through your personal photos, the photos of your family, your phone and your messages," Mohoric said. "At the end of the day I've got nothing to hide ... and I don't care too much about other people checking my

stuff, so it's okay in the end I hope."

Mohoric has stage wins at all three Grand Tours and is a specialist of long solo efforts.

The Slovenian earned his first Tour stage win by claiming the marathon stage of this year's race, a 249-kilometer hilly trek in central France.

On paper, Friday's 207-kilometer flat stage to the southwestern town of Libourne looked tailor-made for Mark Cavendish, but the British sprinter's team did not try to catch the breakaway when it formed.

After matching Eddy Merckx's all-time record of 34 stage wins last week, Cavendish will have another chance to break it during Sunday's final stage, a mainly processional ride generally ending with a mass sprint on the Champs-Élysées.

Christophe Laporte was runner-up, 58 seconds off the pace, and Casper Pedersen completed the podium.

With none of the breakaway riders a threat in the general classification, race leader Tadej Pogacar rode safely in the pack, crossing 20 minutes, 50 seconds behind with his main rivals. □

AP source: 2 NFL teams remain under 50% vaccinated

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

Two NFL teams remain under 50% vaccinated less than two weeks from the start of training camp, a person familiar with the vaccination rates told The Associated Press.

As for Friday, Washington and Indianapolis had the two lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates among the 32 teams in the league, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the league hasn't released the numbers, which are changing daily.

Pittsburgh, Miami, Carolina and Denver have the highest vaccination rates and are among 10 teams that have achieved at least 85%. About 73% of players

have been vaccinated. Teams on the lower end of the vaccination table face potential competitive disadvantages.

The NFL doesn't plan to

cancel any games this season, the person said.

In a memo sent to clubs last week and obtained by the AP on Thursday, the NFL, in conjunction with the

NFLPA, updated protocols to allow teams traveling to joint practices to have their daily maximum of Tier 1 and Tier 2 individuals. The traveling party will be either 100 or 140, depending on the club's vaccination percentage. The club must limit the number of individuals traveling on the team transportation to 85 but may travel additional Tier 1 and Tier 2 staff up to the applicable daily Tier limits separately to attend the practice.

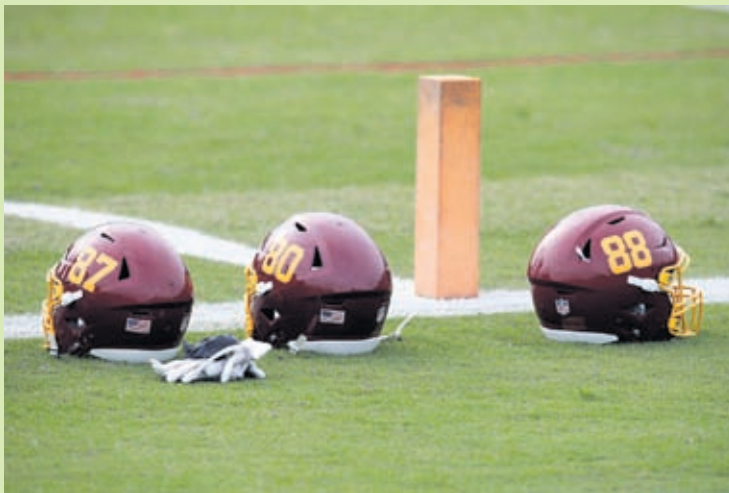
Also, beginning at the start of training camp, teams will be required to develop a method to visually identify fully vaccinated Tier 1 and Tier 2 individuals.

Utilizing color-coded wristbands or credentials are recommended but clubs

are free to implement other methods.

Last month, the NFL and the players' union updated protocols to loosen restrictions for fully vaccinated players and to encourage others to get the vaccine.

Unvaccinated players must continue to get daily testing, wear masks and practice physical distancing. They won't be allowed to eat meals with teammates, can't participate in media or marketing activities while traveling, aren't permitted to use the sauna or steam room and may not leave the team hotel or interact with people outside the team while traveling. Vaccinated players will not have any of those restrictions. □



In this June 2, 2021, file photo, Washington Football Team helmets are on the field during an NFL football OTA at Inova Sports Performance Center in Ashburn, Va.

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Oosthuizen sets 36-hole Open record, stellar cast behind him

By **STEVE DOUGLAS**

AP Sports Writer

SANDWICH, England (AP)

— Louis Oosthuizen set a 36-hole record at the British Open and is halfway to ending that run of near misses at the majors.

Now all he has to do is hold off a cast of major champions on the weekend at Royal St. George's.

On a day of pleasant summer weather that took the fear out of the links off Sandwich Bay, Oosthuizen broke away from a three-way tie with a birdie-birdie-eagle run from the 12th hole. He shrugged off his first bogey of the week for a 5-under 65 and a two-stroke lead on Friday.

Former PGA champion Collin Morikawa had a 64 in the morning and was two shots behind. Another shot back was Jordan Spieth (67), going after his fourth major.

Lurking was two-time major champion Dustin Johnson, the No. 1 player in the world who shot 65 and was tied for fourth, four strokes behind Oosthuizen.

"The game is good, but I know it's a really good leaderboard," Oosthuizen said. "I'll have to play good golf this weekend if I want to come out first."

Oosthuizen, looking as calm as the conditions, was at 11-under 129, breaking the 36-hole Open record first set by Nick Faldo in 1992 at Muirfield and matched by Brandt Snedeker in 2012 at Royal Lytham & St. Annes. This will be the fifth time in the last nine rounds at a major that Oosthuizen, the



South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen acknowledges the crowd after putting an eagle on the 14th green during the second round of the British Open Golf Championship at Royal St George's golf course Sandwich, England, Friday, July 16, 2021.

2010 Open champion at St. Andrews, has had at least a share of the lead. He was runner-up at the last two majors, to Phil Mickelson at the the PGA Championship in May and to Jon Rahm the U.S. Open last month. "I'm not really going to think about the second spots," said Oosthuizen, when asked what he'll do differently this time. "I know my game is in a good place." He'll also be aware of the quality of player behind him, though.

Morikawa, making quite a debut in links golf, made seven birdies in his first 14 holes as part of a clinic in iron play. He missed a 5-foot par putt on No. 15 — ending a 27-hole stretch without a bogey — and

had a 10-foot birdie putt on the final hole catch the lip. Spieth, four shots behind Morikawa when he teed off, was tied for the lead after 12 holes and then played the last six holes in 1 over, a stretch he described as "frustrating." He had plenty of looks at birdie, but the putts didn't drop like they did on Thursday.

"I don't know, I think I need to bring more food on the golf course tomorrow," said Spieth, who has already lifted the claret jug before at Royal Birkdale in 2017. "I got really just in a weird head space, like fatigued there on like the 13th green as we were waiting and hitting putts."

Then there was Johnson, a runner-up at Royal St.

George's in 2011, who stuck his approach at the last to 3 feet for a birdie and a round of 65, which left him at 7 under with Dylan Frittelli of South Africa (67) and Scottie Scheffler (66). The weather is expected to stay benign over the weekend, potentially favoring Johnson if the fairways firm up and the ball runs longer and faster. "I feel like I'm in a good position heading into the weekend," he said. One shot behind an eclectic mix of players at 6 under — including two more South Africans in Justin Harding and Daniel Van Tonder as well as Germany's Marcel Siem, who qualified from a second-tier Challenge Tour event last week — were Rahm (64) and Brooks Ko-

epka.

Koepka, a four-time major winner and seemingly always in contention at golf's biggest events, made four birdies in his last five holes for a 66, then continued his petty feud with Bryson DeChambeau with perhaps the best shot of his round.

During a television interview, Koepka said he was driving it great, adding: "I love my driver" — a clear nod at DeChambeau, who complained on Thursday that his driver "sucks."

DeChambeau doesn't look like being a factor this weekend at Royal St. George's but he's sticking around after shooting a 70, which saw him make the cut on the number at 1 over.

Rory McIlroy will be, too, needing a birdie on the final hole for another 70. He was 11 shots behind and set to stay on four majors until 2022.

"That's sort of been the way for the last couple months," McIlroy said. "It's felt close, but it just hasn't quite been close enough."

Other big names weren't so lucky: No. 7 Patrick Cantlay, No. 9 Patrick Reed and former Open champions Francesco Molinari and Henrik Stenson were among those headed home.

A sign of the favorable weather that has confronted the world's best players this week — there was barely a drop of wind at times on Friday — is the fact the cut was at 1-over 141. The previous lowest cut at Royal St. George's was 143. □

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